

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A pharmaceutical composition suitable for administration to a human, comprising either:

- 5 a) a polypeptide containing at least 8 contiguous amino acid residues in SEQ. ID NO:2;
- b) a polypeptide containing an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to 20 contiguous amino acids in SEQ. ID NO:2; or
- c) a polynucleotide encoding either of the aforesaid polypeptides; in a pharmaceutically compatible carrier.

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2. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, comprising a polypeptide containing at least 8 contiguous amino acid residues in SEQ. ID NO:2.

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3. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, comprising a polypeptide containing an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to 20 contiguous amino acids in SEQ. ID NO:2.

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4. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, comprising a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide containing at least 8 contiguous amino acid residues in SEQ. ID NO:2.

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5. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, comprising a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide containing an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to 20 contiguous amino acids in SEQ. ID NO:2.

6. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 3, wherein the polypeptide contains at least 20 contiguous amino acid residues in SEQ. ID NO:2.

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7. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 4, wherein the polypeptide contains at least 20 contiguous amino acid residues in SEQ. ID NO:2.

8. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 3, wherein the polypeptide contains at least 50 contiguous amino acid residues in SEQ. ID NO:2.

9. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 4, wherein the polypeptide contains at least 50 contiguous amino acid residues in SEQ. ID NO:2.

5 10. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, further comprising an adjuvant.

10 11. A method for eliciting an immune response to human telomerase reverse transcriptase in a subject, comprising administering to the subject the composition of claim 1.

12. A method for eliciting an immune response to human telomerase reverse transcriptase in a subject, comprising administering to the subject the composition of claim 2.

15 13. A method for eliciting an immune response to human telomerase reverse transcriptase in a subject, comprising administering to the subject the composition of claim 3.

20 14. A method for eliciting an immune response to human telomerase reverse transcriptase in a subject, comprising administering to the subject the composition of claim 4.

25 15. A method for eliciting an immune response to human telomerase reverse transcriptase in a subject, comprising administering to the subject the composition of claim 5.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein the composition elicits an antibody response specific for telomerase reverse transcriptase.

30 17. The method of claim 11, wherein the composition elicits a cytotoxic T cell response specific for telomerase reverse transcriptase.

18. The method of claim 11, further comprising assessing whether a telomerase-specific immune response is produced as a result of the administration.

19. The composition of claim 1, in an amount wherein said peptide or protein is effective for eliciting an immunological response specific for telomerase reverse transcriptase.

20. The composition of claim 1, packaged in a container along with an indication of how the composition is to be administered.

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